



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
SHELLFISH TRANSFER PERMIT
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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Section 1. Shellfish Transfer Permit Guidelines and Explanations

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Shellfish Transfer Permits (STP) are required for transfers of live shellfish, shellfish products, and shell, in addition to equipment, vessels, and vehicles used for transfers. The purpose of WDFW's STP requirements is to prevent the spread and establishment of diseases, pests and invasive species that may cause harm to aquaculture, fisheries, and wildstocks of shellfish. Activities requiring a STP generally fall into four user groups: commercial shellfish growers and harvesters; non-commercial shellfish growers (i.e. shellfish gardeners or hobbyists); aquarium, display and education; and researchers or research facilities. The following provides guidance *by user group* on what activities require WDFW Shellfish Transfer Permits.

Commercial Shellfish Growers and Harvesters

1. All transfers of live shellfish, shell, shellfish seed and larvae into state waters, into contact with state waters, or between water bodies require a STP.
2. All transfers of equipment (i.e. vessels, vehicles, oyster tubs etc.) from Restricted Shellfish Areas to Unrestricted Shellfish Areas or other Restricted Shellfish Areas require a STP with additional provisions.
3. STPs are issued on an annual basis, with all issued permits becoming invalid on 1 January of the year following that in which issued. Those desiring renewal of permits are advised to apply for renewal at least 30 days before the permit is needed.
4. No shellfish transfers are "grandfathered" by prior actions, letters, communications, booklets or permits issued by WDFW or the former Washington Dept. of Fisheries.
5. Transfers of harvested oysters, clams and mussels from harvest sites to wet storage sites require a STP. Wet storage includes tidelands, floating storage, and upland facilities using flow through seawater. Transfer of harvested product from Restricted Shellfish Areas to wet storage in Unrestricted Shellfish Areas is prohibited unless provisions can be made to prevent transfer of oyster drills.
6. Placement of shell, shell bags, or shell strings onto tidelands or into state waters to catch natural oyster set or for any other purpose requires a STP. All shell must originate from a WDFW inspected and approved source.
7. Placement of hatchery or natural set seed, seeded cultch (shell), seeded shell strings onto tidelands or into state waters requires a STP. All shell must originate from a WDFW inspected and approved source.
8. Shellfish seed and larvae acquired from a WDFW certified disease and pest free supplier may be transferred onto private tidelands and state waters if accompanied by a valid STP or Shellfish Import Permit (SIP) issued to the supplier. The buyer or those receiving shellfish seed or larvae from a WDFW permitted supplier must provide the supplier with a WDFW Aquatic Farm Registration (AFR) number for the transfer destination plus either a physical address for any receiving facility or tax parcel number identifying the tidelands to which the transfer will be made prior to receiving seed. The supplier will provide a copy of their STP or SIP which must accompany the seed during transfer.

9. For all transfers of live shellfish, shell, shellfish seed or vessels and equipment from Restricted Shellfish Areas refer to Sections 3 and 4.
10. Shellfish seed, shell, and stock suppliers issued a STP allowing transfers to other shellfish growers (commercial and non-commercial) must maintain a record of each transfer including date of transfer, recipient name, address, AFR if commercial, destination tax parcel number or physical address, species, life stage, and quantity. Transfer records are to be submitted quarterly to the WDFW Shellfish Disease Prevention Program. This requirement is in addition to any Aquatic Farm Registration reports.

Non-commercial Shellfish Growers (i.e. restoration, shellfish gardeners and hobbyists)

1. All transfers of live shellfish, shell, shellfish products, and shellfish seed or larvae onto tidelands, into state waters, into contact with state waters, or between water bodies require a valid (STP).
2. Shellfish seed and larvae acquired from a supplier who does not possess valid STP allowing sales or transfers require an application to WDFW for a STP.
3. A WDFW STP does not authorize placement of shellfish or shellfish seed onto public tidelands by private individuals or parties. Unauthorized use of public tidelands for private aquaculture may result in criminal and or civil prosecution for trespass and damages. Placement of shell onto tidelands or into state waters for habitat or substrate enhancement requires a STP. All shell must originate from a WDFW inspected and approved source.

Aquariums, Display and Education

1. If a valid WDFW Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) has been issued that conditionally allows return or release of collected aquatic invertebrates an additional STP is not required.
2. If the aquatic invertebrates are collected under the authority granted the UW Friday Harbor Lab for local scientific collections an additional STP may not be required. Contact the WDFW Shellfish Disease and Pest Prevention Program for further information and with any questions.
3. If a valid WDFW Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) has been issued, an additional STP may not be required. Contact the WDFW Shellfish Disease and Pest Prevention Program for further information and with any questions.
4. All transfers from Restricted Shellfish Areas require an application for a STP. Refer to Section 4.

Researchers and Research Facilities

1. All transfers or releases of aquatic invertebrates into state waters for the purposes of research requires a STP. However, if a valid WDFW Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) has been issued that conditionally allows transfer, return or release of collected aquatic invertebrates an additional STP may not be required.

2. If the aquatic invertebrates are collected under the authority granted the UW Friday Harbor Lab for local scientific collections, an additional STP is not required for transfers unless the aquatic invertebrates are collected from a Restricted Shellfish Area.
3. All transfers from Restricted Shellfish Areas require an application for a STP. Refer to Section 4.
4. All transfers of aquatic invertebrates from outside of the state boundaries require a Shellfish Import Permit (SIP).
5. Contact the WDFW Shellfish Disease and Pest Prevention Program for a review of release and transfer requirements, or waiver information.

Section 2. Shellfish Transfer Permit Instructions

The following sections of the permit application are to be filled out as directed, please refer to Table 1 for information on which sections are required by user group and the following permit application instructions.

Table 1. Sections of the application required to be filled out in entirety, by applicant group.

Applicant	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D
Commercial Shellfish Growers, Buyers, Shippers, Harvesters	X	X	X	X
Non-commercial Growers and Hobby Farmers	X	X	X	X
Researchers and Research Facilities	X	X	X	
Display, Aquariums, and Education	X	X	X	

Section A: Applicant Information

- Provide name of company, organization, institution, or agency
Provide name of primary applicant. Additional names to be listed on the permit may be provided in Section B.
- Provide contact information, including a mailing address and physical address, if different.
- Permits may be delivered by e-mail, Fax, or letter. Please identify preference for permit delivery, otherwise permits will be delivered letter.

Section B: Transfer Information

- Check the box that corresponds to the purpose of the transfer.
- Check the box corresponding to whether this is a new permit application and if applicable, provide previous permit number.
- Check whether this is a transfer or shell or cultch and if applicable, state the source.

- Provide information on the life stage proposed for transfer i.e. larvae, adult etc.
- Check whether individuals proposed for transfer have come from stock that was imported from out of state within the past 5 years. If applicable, provide the permit number regarding this transfer.
- Provide information on the property from which the transfer will be made. Including, general area, specific location (i.e. tax parcel #), name and contact information of upland owner(s) if applicable.
- Provide information on the property to which the transfer will be made. Including, any off-loading areas, general area of the transfer, specific location (i.e. tax parcel #), name and contact information of upland owner(s) if applicable.
- Describe the purpose of the transfer, noting any special details or comments on the transfer methods and intermediate transfer points.
- Describe all equipment that will be used for the transfer including vessel name(s), registration number(s), and license plate number(s) of road vehicles.
- List any additional names to be included on the permit.
- Check whether shell will be returned to marine waters and if applicable, list the location(s).

Section C:

- List the beginning and end date of the proposed transfer.

Section D:

- Check whether this transfer is related to commercial aquaculture or harvest.
- Check whether this transfer is being used to create a new (previously non-existing) cultivated shellfish bed. If applicable, provide the relevant AFR number(s) with details on the AFR parcel(s) from which transfer will be made and/or to.
- Type in the AFR number.

Make sure to accept the conditions stated for the permit and sign and date.

Section 3. Restricted Shellfish Areas - Definition and Requirements

Specific waters, tidelands, bedlands and shorelines of Washington are designated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as Restricted Shellfish Areas for the purposes of preventing transfers of disease, parasites, pests, and invasive species. Currently these areas are determined by the presence of the Japanese oyster drill (*Ocenebrellus ornatus*), the American oyster drill (*Urosalpinx cinerea*), and the invasive Green crab (*Carcinus maenus*). ***Preventing transfers of these species is a priority for protecting the health of Washington's shellfish aquaculture, wildstock fisheries and marine natural resources.***

Maps and descriptions of Restricted Shellfish Areas can be found on the agency website:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/shellfish_import_transfer/. A shellfish transfer permit from WDFW is required for all transfers of oysters, oyster shell, oyster seed, cultched oyster seed, clams, clam seed, mussels, mussel seed and equipment (including vessels and vehicles) from Restricted Shellfish Areas to

Unrestricted Shellfish Areas and from Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay to any other waters, shorelines, tidelands, bedlands, facilities or destinations. Willapa Bay is designated as a Restricted Shellfish Area due to the presence of both oyster drill species and the invasive Green crab. Grays Harbor is designated as a Restricted Shellfish Area due to observations of Green crab. A copy of the permit must accompany all of the above transfers.

Below are the standard requirements for all transfers from Restricted Shellfish Areas:

1. All shellfish and shellfish products, including market ready shellfish, must be contained in such a manner that no oyster drills, oyster drill eggs, debris, and visible marine animal or plant life may escape containment into state waters.
2. Upon exiting a Restricted Shellfish Area, all shellfish and shellfish products must remain in containment during on-water transfer, offloading, and/or transfer to an onshore destination.
3. All vehicles leaving a Restricted Shellfish Area and equipment used to transport oysters, oyster shell, oyster seed, cultched oyster seed, clams, clam seed, mussels, and mussel seed, must be cleaned of all debris, oyster drills, oyster drill egg cases, and visible marine life at a site remote from any marine shoreline or waters prior to returning to any marine shoreline.
4. Except for containment of shellfish and shellfish products, all equipment i.e. oyster tubs, baskets, bags, netting, ropes, rakes, dredges, etc., must be washed and free of oyster drills, oyster drill egg cases, shell, debris and visible marine life prior to exiting a Restricted Shellfish Area.
5. Transfers from floating nurseries or other similar in-water facilities located in Restricted Shellfish Areas may be conditionally approved after inspection and approval of facilities and operating conditions by WDFW.
6. Transfers of shellfish, including harvested oysters, clams and mussels, and shellfish products from Restricted Shellfish Areas to wet storage in the waters, tidelands, bedlands and shorelines in Unrestricted Shellfish Areas is prohibited except where specifically permitted

Additional Requirements for Transfers from or Into Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor Restricted Shellfish Areas:

1. A Shellfish Transfer permit is required for all transfers from Willapa Bay to Grays Harbor or Puget Sound including deliveries of harvested oysters to shucking or processing facilities. Special provisions to prevent the spread of Green crab will be required as permit conditions.

2. Transfers between tidelands and waters of Willapa Bay do not require a STP.
3. Transfers between tidelands and waters of Grays Harbor do not require a STP.
4. Transfers into the Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor do require a STP.
5. Transfers into Willapa Bay of oyster larvae, seed, broodstock or product is prohibited from locations or sources that have not been certified free of Denman Island Disease.

***Please refer to the separate **Restricted Shellfish Area Maps** for detailed maps of these identified areas.*